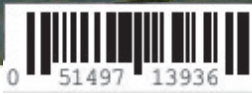




Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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This Week in the House of Delegates

For the week ending Jan. 26, 2024

Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates voted to complete two bills this week.

The first, House Bill 4274, was a utilitarian measure signed into law by the governor Jan. 26. It will update the language throughout state code to reflect the newly divided Department of Health, Department of Human Services and Department of Health Facilities.

The second, Senate Bill 269, would expand a 2022 law that decriminalized testing strips for the drug fentanyl. All other testing strips used to identify controlled substances are still classified as “drug paraphernalia,” subject to a misdemeanor charge. This bill, now with the Governor for action, would exempt any drug test strips from that definition.

Deputy Speaker Matt Rohrbach, R-Cabell, serves as Chairman of the Committee on Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse. He explained the bill just before the vote, saying it would permit all test strips for deadly drugs without the Legislature revisiting the issue each time a new drug is developed.

“As we’ve seen, as

time has gone, unfortunately, we’ve got fentanyl, now we’ve got carfentanyl, now we’ve got xylazine,” he said.

The bill came from the Joint Committee on Health studying the issue during the interim committee process. It passed the full House by unanimous vote.

The West Virginia Senate has already introduced House Bill 4595, which also passed the House by unanimous vote this week. The bill would update the authority already given to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability, which was created in 1995.

The measure would allow members of that committee to privately meet in executive session to confidentially investigate child abuse, nursing home abuse, IDD waiver, adult protective service matter, child protective services and hospital abuse.

Delegate Mike Pushkin, D-Kanawha, who serves as Minority Chairman of the House Health and Human Resources Committee, spoke in favor of the bill before the vote, say-

HOUSE cont. on page 9



Pictured are (top) Graceyn Marks, first grade; Gunnar Martinelli, Pre-K; Jack Duffield, Pr-K; (middle) Cattie Boggs, third grade; Emma Stephenson; third grade; Kinslie Murphy, third grade; (bottom) Caleb Tomlin, fourth grade; Judy Stevens, fourth grade; and Christian Goodwin, fourth grade.

Big Otter students race Hot Wheels

Students at Big Otter Elementary School are off to the races! Every day a student is present at school, they are eligible to win a Hot Wheels race car. At the end of each nine weeks, students race their cars on a huge racetrack. Congratulations to the winners!

Information About Magistrate Court Cases Now Available Online for Free

Docket information about public cases filed in West Virginia magistrate courts is now available online to the public for free.

“The Magistrate Case Record Search system greatly improves access to court records. The Supreme Court continues to fulfill its commitment to make the court system more open to the public,” said Chief Justice Tim Armstead during a media conference on Thursday, Jan. 25, in the West Virginia Law Library.

The link to access the records is <https://MCRSearch.courtswv.gov>.

“The search system is free to use and does not require registration,” Chief Justice Armstead said. Anyone with a computer or mobile device can enter a first or last name or a case number and the system will generate search results. A typical list contains names and birthdates, as well as general details of each case, such as the date each case was filed, charge, disposition, and a list of documents in the court file.

Users should call or visit the

magistrate court clerk in the county where a case is filed to obtain copies of specific court records. Clerks charge a nominal fee required by law for copies. The search system helps callers and visitors to know what to ask for and which county they need to contact.

The public can continue to use existing public access terminals located in each magistrate court clerk’s office, which will be enhanced to include search results from all counties statewide.

“We are making this announcement in the West Virginia Law Library to emphasize that users can now search magistrate court records from anywhere at any time, including from their own computers, mobile devices, or computers located in public libraries,” Chief Justice Armstead said. “Our Court recognizes that our court system is here to serve our citizens. This represents the latest step in our Court’s ongoing efforts to make our legal proceedings more open and accessible.”

Lilly Goldizen crowned basketball homecoming queen 2024



Lilly Goldizen being crowned by principal Allen Tanner. Allen Hamrick photo.

D&E College Releases President’s and Dean’s Academic List

Davis & Elkins College has released the president’s list and dean’s list for the fall 2023 semester. The president’s list includes all full-time students who earned a 4.0 grade point average for the semester and the

dean’s list includes all full-time students with a semester GPA of 3.6 to less than 4.0.

Those earning honors include Phoebe Layne on Glen, WV on the Dean’s List.

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Brittney Danielle Bennett
Booked 1/25/24
Indictment



Trampis Lee Canfield
Booked 1/26/24
Domestic battery



Ricky James Clement Jr.
Booked 1/26/24
Expired MVI, DUI, driving revoked for DUI



Jayson Conner Grose
Booked 1/24/23
Trespassing asked to leave, burglary



Henry Ford Hanshaw
Booked 1/27/24
Domestic assault, domestic battery



Kenneth Demond Johnson Jr.
Booked 1/26/24
Possession with intent, conspiracy



Cody Ray Mullins
Booked 1/23/24
Indictment



Nathaniel Charles Rader
Booked 1/25/24
Domestic battery third offense, strangulation, obstructing an officer



Vincent Seth Ruggieri
Booked 1/25/24
Strangulation, domestic battery third offense

BRAXTON COUNTY



Asa Matthew Carr
Booked 1/25/24
Gross neglect of a child, abuse or neglect of an incapacitated adult, attempted first degree murder



William Holley Coffman
Booked 1/26/24
Destruction of property



Emilie Marie Rhodes
Booked 1/25/24
Attempted breaking and entering, breaking and entering other than dwelling

CLAY COUNTY



John Alden Boggs
Booked 1/26/24
Fleeing with reckless indifference

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Clay County Middle School after-school program is still seeking donated sewing machines.

If you have a working portable sewing machine that you no longer need and would like to donate

to a beginning sewist, please drop it off at the Clay County Library earmarked for the CCMS sewing class. The manual would be great to have with the machine.

Please, include your contact information. In the case that the class is too small for the number of machines that

may be donated, leave a note saying what you want done with it. Thank you in advance for your support!

The Clay County WIC office located at 452 Main Street in Clay is open to serve the public every Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Puzzle Answers

Super Crossword

Answers

E	G	G	M	A	N	D	A	S	A	N	I	S	H	R	I	N	E	S	
M	A	R	I	N	A	O	S	A	G	E	S	L	A	I	D	O	U	T	
B	L	A	C	K	H	A	W	K	D	O	W	N	U	N	M	A	N	L	Y
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M	E	T	E	R	S	R	E	I	K	I	L	E	R	O	Y	S			
S	O	Y	L	E	N	T	G	R	E	E	N	N	O	O	B				
			S	M	O	O	T	H	E	N	P	T	A	E	E	G	S		
S	K	E	E	S	S	E	B	L	U	E	V	E	L	V	E	T			
N	E	T	S	I	T	E	T	I	N	E	A	R	I	N	L	A	T	E	
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O	T	O	O	L	E	A	R	I	S	E	N	E	T	O	N	I	A	N	
P	U	R	P	L	E	R	A	I	N	E	S	P	O	R	T	S			
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T	H	E	N	O	S	E	A	V	E	N	G	E	P	E	T	E	R	I	
S	A	S	S	I	E	R	P	A	T	T	E	N	A	S	S	E	S	S	

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	7	5	1	3	9	8	2	6
1	8	9	6	5	2	4	7	3
6	3	2	8	4	7	1	5	9
8	2	1	9	6	5	3	4	7
7	9	4	3	2	8	6	1	5
3	5	6	7	1	4	2	9	8
9	4	7	2	8	3	5	6	1
5	6	3	4	9	1	7	8	2
2	1	8	5	7	6	9	3	4

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Home Country*By: Slim Randles*

Hey, I was there to help, right? Right there in the kitchenette loaned us by the Roosevelt Hotel in Anchorage. My wife, Pam, ran the headquarters for the Iditarod Dogsled Race, and it was the second year of the race, 1974, and there I sat, a genuine Alaskan long-distance dog musher who had participated in the first race the year before.

So when a nicely dressed elderly gentleman with a thick Boston accent stopped by for coffee and questions about the race ... hey, I'm there for you.

He said his name was Norman Vaughan and he had some questions, and we talked for more than an hour. Oh, I explained to this obvious city guy all about how the dogs were hooked up, and how far we could go each day, depending on weather. He was a good student, too. When he rose to go, he said, "Slim, I think we'll be seeing a lot of each other and become good friends."

There was something about Norman that I genuinely admired, even if I couldn't have said exactly what it was.

For the record, the race begins (for 50 years now) on the first Saturday in March in Anchorage, then crosses 1,100 miles of Alaska to end up on Front Street in Nome. This gives a guy a long, cold camping trip before he gets to Front Street.

Many aren't able to complete the race for various reasons, and I was one of those. Four days in, I crushed an ankle. I crawled in the sled and the team took me 20 miles to the next checkpoint, where I was ignominiously airlifted to a hospital in Anchorage by Army helicopter.

So about a half hour after Norman left, we were discussing him and sipping coffee when the news guy on the radio said, "The special guest at the musher's banquet tonight will be Colonel Norman Vaughan, who drove a dog team to the South Pole in 1928."

Yes, there was laughter. A lot.

Norman Vaughan drove his dog team to the South Pole as a possible rescuer in case Richard Byrd's plane was forced down. During World War II, Norman was in charge of dog team rescue in Greenland, where they could rescue any air crews forced down on the ice cap. More than 100 fliers were rescued by his dog teams.

He and I were friends for the rest of his life, and when Norman Vaughan finally was able to finish the Iditarod Race in Nome, one of my dogs was his leader.

But after giving this polar explorer the benefit of my "vast" experience, about all I could do is grin and shrug and say, "Well, at least now he knows how to do it the right way."

longed to walk outside and feel the Love of God flowing through the day. Thankfully, I didn't have to wait that long. As soon as I lay down on the floor to do some sit-ups my little dog, Sweetie ran over, climbed on my chest and started licking my nose and chin. I smiled, laughed, and took a nice long pet the puppy break from my exercising. I realized too that my furry baby had that same Divine love flowing through her own little heart. Yes, sometimes the clouds of life can make the world seem gray and gloomy. But the truth is that the Love of God is always there waiting to break

MAZZELLA cont. on page 7

**THE BAPTIST CLASSROOM***Pastor Doug Newell, IV***Free Indeed**

The law has been a point of controversy since the foundation of Christianity. Christ's enemies marveled at His teaching of the law and were often put in their place for their lack of understanding it or disregarding it. When Christ arose, the law was still a point of misunderstanding. When the gospel started going out beyond the boundaries of the Jewish communities, there were churches full of people with very little connection to Israel, especially by bloodlines. They had never followed the dietary laws, lived with the Jewish traditions, or been circumcised. This posed a problem for those Jewish communities who had known nothing else. The Bible was clear about circumcision. The new Gentiles should be circumcised was the opinion of many.

The Apostle Paul understood this wasn't a matter of Christian liberty or a difference of opinion. It was a matter of the true gospel. Those who demanded circumci-

sion for the Gentile believers in Christ to enter the family of God and the church of God were adding another requirement to the gospel. Paul stood firmly on the vital truth that we are justified by faith alone, in Christ alone. Our legal standing before God is not based on our keeping of the law but on the work of Jesus Christ. He lived for us, and by faith, we receive His righteousness. He died for us, pardoning us with His precious blood. Therefore, we have the forgiveness of sins and His perfect righteousness credited to our account.

The Old Covenant was never intended to last forever. It was given for a time until Christ, who would fulfill the law, would come. When Christ died, I died with him. I died to the law. And as Christ rose, I'm risen with him. I am dead to the law and alive in Christ. You can't go and arrest Billy the Kid. The law of the United States has no sway over him anymore. He's dead and gone. It's the same with the

law. It has no power to judge me anymore. Christ established the New Covenant, and that Old has no authority over me any longer.

So I'll stand free in the liberty that Christ has made me free. I won't be entangled again with the yoke of the bondage. You can't live halfway between the Old Covenant and the New. Living in the law for acceptance with God makes Christ's work worthless.

If you live under the law, you have to live under all of it, all of the time. Perfectly, entirely, exactly, and perpetually. You have fallen from grace if you try to go back under the Old Covenant, even just a little.

We are called to liberty, the freedom to serve and love one another in the Spirit. No one sins against another by loving him and walking in the Spirit. It's easier to live by rules. It feels safer. So we make them up or modify the old ones. But there is no safety for sinners under the law.

The Key To Life Is Forgetting The Right Things*By: Dr. James Snyder*

The thing that has concerned me as I have aged was about forgetting things. How could I remember everything when I was crowding my brain with all kinds of new things?

In this regard, there is no comparison between The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and myself. I have a problem remembering, and her problem is forgetting. She can't forget anything. She remembers things that I don't think ever happened. How she does that is above my pay scale.

My concern has always been that I would forget things I needed to remember and it would cause a lot of difficulty in my relationships. My biggest concern is forgetting the names of people, especially relatives. I can never figure out why some people have such weird names, hard to remember.

Thinking about this, something came to mind. When I was younger, I forgot a lot of things but all that forgetting did not keep me from growing older. In fact, I forgot some stuff on purpose just to get out of some jam. My aging had nothing to do with my forgetting.

I began to think that forgetting may result from something other than getting old. Maybe forgetting is a way of dealing with some of the issues of life.

In thinking about this, I have concluded that the key to a good life is knowing what to forget and what to remember. If I can master this, I will not have any problems.

I've been trying to develop the art of forgetting in my life. If I know what to forget, my life will be better.

Number one on my list of not forgetting is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. That is the hard one. I must remember all of the right things regarding her and forget all the other things.

When we started our matrimonial journey, I had no idea

about this. My idea was to get along, just go along. That works with some people, but it doesn't seem to work with me.

I have to make a list of things to forget and then a list of things to remember.

The list of things to remember is pretty long, including her birthday, our anniversary, our children's birthdays and their anniversaries, and our grandchildren's birthdays. Along with that list are the names of all of those people.

If I had charge of things, which I don't, I would tattoo the names of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren on their foreheads along with their birthday. That sure would help me a lot.

Another thing on the list to remember was everything she said to me. I can't tell you how many times she has asked, "Don't you remember what I said yesterday?"

Now, the problem with that question is that she said so much yesterday it is tough for me to remember anything she said yesterday.

My list of things to remember gets longer every year.

But the things to forget could be even longer. I sometimes get the two lists confused, and boy, do I get into trouble.

It boils down to this. I must always remember every time she is right. But then I also must forget every time she is wrong.

I must keep alert when we are with some friends because somewhere along the conversation, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "My dear, do you remember...?" When that happens, I know that my sanity is on the line.

Or, another question would be, "My dear, remember our vacation last year?" Sometimes, I do have a little bit of a memory, but not often. With a great smile, I will respond by saying, "Oh yes I do. It was the best planned vacation we ever

had."

I'm all right for the rest of the evening if I can get away with that. Because she really doesn't want me to tell about the vacation just to go along with her idea of that vacation. If I could remember something about our vacation last year, it would be an unusual episode of whose clock is ticking.

The biggest challenge I have is to forget every time she is wrong. I don't know what it is about me, but these things I can never forget. She's not wrong often, but when she is, I take great delight in that. I can't reveal my delight to her in any fashion, but it's there.

Maybe I cannot forget them, but I am developing the discipline not to bring them up in any conversation. Sometimes, I want to bring one up just to take advantage of a situation, but thinking of that, I really do love living.

Knowing what to forget and what to remember has been an important key in my life. The big problem here is that I have a hard time choosing what to remember and what to forget.

I couldn't help but think of what the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:13-15, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Forgetting the right things makes room for me to remember the right things. If I'm going to press forward in my life I must forget some things in the past.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

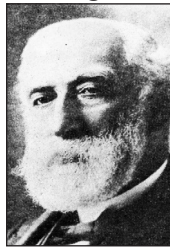
The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to *toe-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Jan. 31, 1878: Educator William Woodson Trent was born in rural Nicholas County. He served as state superintendent of schools from 1933 until 1957.

Jan. 31, 1922: Movie and television actress Joanne Dru was born Joan Letitia Lacock in Logan. Her movie career included more than 40 films. Her brother, singer and TV host Peter Marshall, is also a West Virginia native.

Jan. 31, 1945: Sergeant Jonah Edward Kelley of Mineral County was killed in action while leading his squad against German positions during World War II. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "superb courage."

Feb. 1, 1832: Education reformer Alexander Luark Wade was born. Wade reorganized rural Monongalia County schools to require progress through eight



prescribed levels with a graduating exercise and receipt of a diploma. Wade's system worked so well it was copied in other counties and states.

Feb. 1, 1901: Frank Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of World War I, was born in Missouri. Buckles purchased a farm in Charles Town in 1954 and continued to live there until his death in 2011.

Feb. 2, 1908: Justice Marion Chambers was born in Huntington. Chambers was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the World War II Iwo Jima campaign in February 1945.



Feb. 3, 1825: Confederate General William Lowther Jackson was born in Clarksburg. He was one of at least three Southern officers to bear the nickname "Mudwall."

Feb. 3, 1845: Gilmer County, located in the heart of West Virginia, was established from parts of Kanawha and Lewis counties. It was named for Thomas W. Gilmer, a governor of Virginia.

Feb. 3, 1923: Broadcast announcer Jack Fleming was born in Morgantown. He was the long-time "Voice of the Mountaineers."



Feb. 3, 1961: The West Virginia legislature passed a resolution adopting "The West Virginia Hills" as an official state song. Prior to "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "The West Virginia Hills" was the best-known of our four official state songs.

Feb. 4, 1845: Doddridge County was formed from parts of Harrison, Lewis, Ritchie, and Tyler counties. It was named for Philip Doddridge, a Western Virginia congressman, state legislator and member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829-30.

Feb. 4, 1945: The hotel at Minnehaha Springs was destroyed by fire. Built in 1914, it was the first facility in Pocahontas County built strictly for the tourist business and was a forerunner of today's local tourism economy.

Feb. 5, 1889: Fiddler and self-

taught physician James Franklin "Doc" White was born near Ivydale, Clay County. White served the community as doctor, dentist and midwife, delivering more than 1,800 babies.

Feb. 5, 1890: Coach Eli Camden "Cam" Henderson was born in Joetown, Marion County. He is a revered figure in Marshall University sports history.



Feb. 5, 1941: Actor David Lynn Selby was born in Morgantown. His stage and screen credits include the outdoor drama *Honey in the Rock*, and the television shows *Falcon Crest* and *Dark Shadows*.



Feb. 6, 1882: Poet Anne Spencer was born Annie Bethel Bannister in Henry County, Virginia. In 1886, she and her mother moved to Bramwell, where she spent most of her childhood and adolescent years.



STOP SB 264

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4			1					2
	8			5		4		
	3	2			7			9
		1		6		3		
	9				8	6	1	
3			7					8
		7			3	5		
	6		4	9				8
2					6			4

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

THE SILVER SCREEN

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 46 Beginner, in gaming lingo | 84 Potent compound in marijuana: Abbr. | 123 More impertinent | 34 Piercing | 81 Tennis unit |
| 1 Guy in the Beatles' "I Am the Walrus" | 47 Use sandpaper on, informally | 85 Sequence of episodes on the tube | 124 Actor Dick Van — | 35 Come in first | 85 1982 film and arcade game |
| 7 Brand of bottled water | 48 Ed. supporter | 89 Test of speed | 125 Evaluate | 36 Vintage auto | 86 Steam hole |
| 13 Holy places | 50 Brain wave tests, in brief | 92 1986 Molly Ringwald Cinderella story | DOWN | 38 Someone — problem | 87 Ninny |
| 20 Yacht basin | 54 — -Ball (carnival game) | 96 6x9-inch book | 1 Tokens | 39 Sleep stage | 88 Bump — log |
| 21 Old Missouri natives | 57 Lubbock-to-Laredo dir. | 99 Attach with cord, e.g. | 2 Telescope pioneer | 43 "I fail — the humor" | 90 Road map abbr. |
| 22 Arranged, as a page for printing | 58 1986 Isabella Rossellini neo-noir film | 101 Actor Patrick | 3 Newton topic | 44 Some sporty autos | 91 Write music |
| 23 2001 Josh Hartnett war film | 61 WWW page | 102 1992 Wesley Snipes sports film | 4 Rats' relatives | 45 Orating skill | 92 Pod veggie |
| 25 Not macho | 64 Musical inaptitude | 107 ABA mem. | 5 Crooner Paul | 46 No, in Selkirk | 93 Like Charlie Brown's kite, inevitably |
| 26 "— little!" ("Have some fun!") | 67 Having arrived tardily | 108 Sol-do linkup | 6 "Prob'ly not" | 48 Least ornate | 94 Seine users, e.g. |
| 27 Vegas action | 68 Choose (to) | 109 Meat spread | 7 Carpentry rod | 49 Zig or zag | 95 Result of a very-low-carb diet |
| 28 Darkens in the sun | 69 1984 Gene Wilder romantic comedy | 110 "Starpeace" singer Yoko | 8 Invite out for | 51 Major Taiwanese carrier | 96 Hooting baby birds |
| 30 Hammer, e.g. | 72 "— said before ..." | 111 — voce (quietly) | 9 Hardly happy | 52 Implies | 97 Latin dance |
| 31 Yalie | 73 "The Lion in Winter" actor | 113 Smart speaker from Amazon | 10 Of yore | 53 Pub mugs | 98 Gives 10% |
| 32 1971 Malcolm McDowell crime film | 75 Dawned | 115 Photos not in shades of gray ... or what eight answers in this puzzle are? | 11 Unfamiliar | 54 Nosy sorts | 99 Blast creator |
| 37 They're fed after parking | 76 Certain English student | 120 Precisely, with "on" | 12 Fails to be satisfactory | 55 Sustained | 100 Polar topper |
| 40 "Energy healing" technique | 78 1984 Prince musical film | 121 Retaliate | 13 Skulked | 56 Automaker Bugatti | 103 Diner patron |
| 41 Artist Neiman and Jim Croce's Brown | 80 Psychic "gift" | 122 Czar called "the Great" | 14 Sci-fi role for Harrison Ford | 58 Part of N.B. | 104 1995-2011 Yankee Posada |
| 42 1973 Charlton Heston thriller | 83 Graf — (German warship) | | 15 Cup edge | 59 Lead-in to Cong or Minh | 105 Release, as from a corral |

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THE WIDEN NEWS



The people who think alike should vote alike.

"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.

November 1957

Best Students Named. . .

Twenty-Seven Make High School Honor Roll

Seventh Grade Mrs. Reynolds	
"A"	Charlotte McClain 4.00
	Sandra Henderson 3.80
	Roger Bangeman 3.50
"B"	
	Patricia Manning 3.00
Eleventh Grade: Mr. Baker	
"A"	Kathleen McDon 3.50
"B"	
	Gary Graham 3.25
	Gary Eagle 3.20
	Ronald Robinson 3.00
	Jerle Hamrick 3.00
	David Shaffer 3.00
Tenth Grade: Mr. Matheny	
"A"	Karen Elaine Kirk 3.00
"B"	
	Margaret Terrell Shaffer 3.10
	Melecia Jean Miller 3.10
	Virginia Ann Nettles 3.00
	Carolyn Annette Hutchinson 3.00
Ninth Grade: Mr. Plimley	
"A"	Lilke Nash 3.00
"B"	
	Karen Donahue 3.40
	Dawn Bachus 3.20
Eleventh Grade: Mrs. Griffith	
"A"	Ruby Lee Holcomb 3.00
	Dore Hamrick 3.00
"B"	
	Judy LaCorte 3.20
	Carolee Miller 3.10
	Rena Gibson 3.00
Twelfth Grade: Miss Woods	
"A"	Joan Truman 4.00
	Lillian DeGrill 3.50
"B"	
	Alice Hamrick 3.00
	April Manning 3.00

Second Grade: Mrs. Elliott	
"B"	Arlis Woods
	Michael Triplett
	Sandra McKinney
	Paul Addison
	Donald Conner
	Jimmy Horsey
Third Grade: Miss Adler	
"A"	Conor Hendricks
	Benny Connor
"B"	
	Sonia Eagle
	Belle Fryer
	Julia Gibson
	Linda Swarick
	Teresa Potasch
	Lela Gill
	Herby Gibson
	Johnny Houshion
	Walter Miles
Fourth Grade: Mrs. Bray	
"A"	Teddy Kapp
	Bleam Taylor
	Norma Hamrick
Fourth Grade: Mrs. Bray	
"A"	Linda Bangeman
	Nancy Datcher
	Molly Horsey
	Robert Doherty
	Ella Ruth Fryer
	Walter George
	Sharon Manning
	Leann Kay Mullins
"B"	
	Wendy Adkins
	Polly Connor
	Yvonne Connor
	Warren Donahue
	Lee Kern
	Kimberly Witten
	Carol Workman
Fifth Grade: Mr. Jackson	
"A"	Larry Buck
	Bonnie Underhill
	Garry Marple
	Starley Craker
	Jewel Eagle
"B"	
	Roger M. A.
	Sheila Ruse
	Tom Beggs
	Beth Bolchre
	Charlotte Bernzain
Sixth Grade: Mrs. Bolcher	
"B"	Ronald Connor
	T. G. Griffith
	Keith Jones
	Sharon Kauffman
	Brenda King
	Sandra Williams

Sixty-Seven Make Grade School Honor Roll

First Grade: Mrs. Kumber	
"A"	Empie York
	Roger King
	Sandra France
	Karen Marple
	Nancy Plimley
"B"	
	Frances Samples
	James Sizemore
Second Grade: Miss Graham	
"A"	Julia Acree
	Dawn Arbogast
	Danny Keen
	Janet Thoury
"B"	
	Yvonne Hamilton
	Anna Sizemore
	Sandra Miller
	Bonnie King
	Marlynn Rapp

ATHLETIC CLUB

Because of bad winter weather, the Athletic Club will be playing such games as indoor baseball, and volleyball each day at noon in the gymnasium under the supervision of Mr. Jerome Pinner. All boys, whether members of the club or not, are urged to join in these activities at the noon hour.

A Prayer For Thanksgiving

May we remember the blessings of the year—the good things that have come our way—the friends who have proved true.
 May we remember the promises of our Lord—the richness of His love—the tenderness of His care.
 May we remember to meet adversity with courage—to face uncertainties with faith—to fight prejudices with truth.
 May we know the fulfillment of worthwhile living—the happiness of load-sharing—the contentment of Divine love.

Student-of-the-Month

Lillian, the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earle DeGrill of Wilson Ridge was selected as Student-of-the-month for November.
 Lillian is a senior and is president of her class. She accepts responsibility without hesitation and inspires others to work well. She is also a member of National Honor Society in which she is secretary-treasurer and reporter. Lillian is secretary-treasurer of the Student Council. She is also an honorary member of the Dramatic Club.
 Lillian was selected to represent her Student Council at the Annual Council Conference at Jackson Mill during last October. She is on the "A" Honor Roll.
 Lillian's personal likes are varied—she is particularly fond of pink and a '57 Chevrolet. She also likes to eat meat loaf while she listens to "Special Angel".
 Her hobby is crocheting and she has made many lovely things for her home. She was also chosen Student-of-the-Month last year in November.

Wouldn't It Be Funny If

Mittie dits instead of Bailes.
 Albert was a queen instead of a King.
 Joan, an Eisenhower instead of a Truman.
 Joe, a forest instead of Woods.
 Miss Woods, a "passa" instead of a Phala.
 Coach, a dollar instead of a Pinney.
 The band director, "dates" instead of Simmons.
 Mr. Reynolds, a wrap instead of a teacher.
 James, "swamps" instead of Boggs.
 Russell, a baker instead of a Butcher.
 Victor, a picture instead of a Frame.
 Patricia, old instead of Young.
 Holmes, a Sherlock instead of Abraham.
 Carol, would "low" instead of Neal.
 Terry, an Easterbrook instead of a Shaffer.
 Carl, was pappy instead of Manny.
 Eugene, a Norths instead of a George.
 Betty, an art instead of a Craft.
 Juanita, a barricade instead of a Fort.
 Lillie, an Edsel instead of Nash.
 Gary, a Crow instead of a Eagle.
 Nancy, a Joasman instead of a Workman.
 Melita, a butterfly instead of a Miller.
 Corla, a "give-o" instead of a Bego.
 Sandra, a workday instead of a Holiday.
 Miss Backus, a sunset instead of a Dawn.

Arrangements for the tea were made by the National Honor Society under the supervision of Miss Tressie Bailes, sponsor.

Guests included: Madames Bill Marple, Betty Acree, Ruby Potasch, Jerry Hamrick, Anshell King, Melvin Connor, J. J. Connor, Jack Holcomb, Dianna Holcomb, Eugene Russell, Arthur Harris, Berdo Dunlap, Kathryn Taylor, Audrey Morris, Mae Ellis, Camilla Elliott, Maide Hinchart, Mamie Haygood, Leona Griffith and Misses Susie Belle Graham and Tressie Bailes. Messrs. Dr. Jackson, James Boggs, Arthur Matheny, Calvin Reynolds, Harry Baer, Jerome Plimley, Gerald Simmons and V. N. Lamber.

Tea Honore Parents

Widen National Honor Society entertained teachers and visiting parents at a beautifully appointed tea in the Home Ec. Building on November 13. The social affair climaxed the activities planned for American Educational Week at Widen High School.

Guests at the tea were received by Miss Lillian DeGrill, who invited them to the attractively decorated table. Miss Helen Egan and Miss Joan Truman poured coffee and tea. They were aided by Miss Alice Hamrick.

The table was lovely with a pink, blue, white, fall candles, and a centerpiece of silver and gold that led leaves. Miss Betty Sizemore was in charge of appointments.

Much credit for the success of the tea goes to the kitchen crew: Judy LaCorte, Ruby Lee Holcomb, and April Manning, who worked under the supervision of Mrs. Betty Sizemore.

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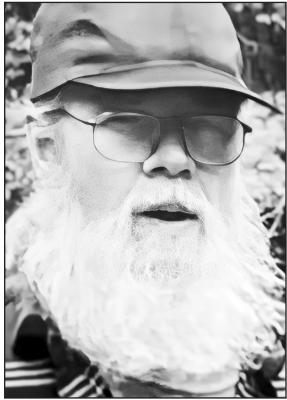
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OBITUARY

Charles "Chuck" Dempsey Strickland II



Charles "Chuck" Dempsey Strickland II, 68 years old, of Duck, WV passed away at CAMC Memorial Hospital, Charleston, WV on Saturday, January 20, 2024.

He was born in Warren, Ohio on June 24, 1955, to the late Charles Dempsey Strickland, Sr., and Sharron Lorraine Thomas (Woods) Strickland.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his second wife, Linda Howell.

Chuck was a Navy veteran. He retired from Ford Motor Company as a welder on the line after 15 plus years of employment.

When he was younger, he enjoyed hunting, fishing and four-wheeling. He enjoyed watching gameshows and Westerns on the television.

He lived in Clay for the last 22 years and one could often find him watching the birds and deer around his home.

Chuck is survived by his daughter, Nicole Elyse Hawley, and husband, Kevin, of Casper, Wyoming; sons, Michael Howell and wife, Crystal, of Derby, Kansas, Charles "Chas" Almas of Taylor, Michi-

gan and David Howell and wife, Rebecca, of Troy, Missouri; grandchildren, Elyse Hawley, Blakely Hawley, Liam Howell, Madelyn Howell, Lauren Almas, Rebecca Howell, Payton Howell and Dylan Howell; sister, Carol Strickland of Chelsea, Michigan; nephew, Steven Koslowski of Southgate, Michigan; and great niece, Allison Koslowski.

His funeral was held at 1 P.M. on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at Roach Funeral Home, 708 Braxton Street, Gassaway, WV with Reverend Johnny Conrad officiating.

A burial with military rites followed in the Walnut Grove Church Cemetery, Strange Creek, WV.

Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at www.roachfuneralhome.com.

Mazzella

through, wanting to light up our lives, and only needing our invitation to warm our hearts and uplift our souls. It is always there no matter how dirty our windows are or how tired

our spirits are. We just need to welcome it in. And like my little dog, Sweetie God wants us to share that Love too. It is so easy to do. A simple smile, a hug, a kiss, a kind deed, a

helping hand, an encouraging word can mean so much. Even the littlest act of love can change a heart or save a life. Invite God's Love into your life then. Welcome it into your

Continued From Page 3 heart. Share it with the world. Shine a little light into the darkness. And your days will be full of Heaven's Happiness even while you are here on Earth.

Letter to the Editor

Bob Wise Giveth, but Jim Justice Taketh Away!

An open letter to Governor Justice

By Rocky Osborne, Clay County

On April 11, 2003 I received a letter from Fred VanKirk, Secretary / Highways Commissioner, West Virginia Department of Transportation.

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Osborne:

Governor Bob Wise has forwarded your letter, concerning the Elkhurst Swinging Bridge in Clay County, to the Division of Highways for response.

The condition of the existing bridge, along with its unique design, is beyond any repair by the Division of Highways that would ensure the safety of the traveling public. Therefore, this bridge cannot be reopened. A new, single-lane bridge at this location would cost \$2.5 million. At this time the Division does not have the necessary funding to build a new bridge; however, this location WILL BE PLACED ON THE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION LIST and will be considered, along with all other locations for bridge construction, AS FUNDING BECOMES AVAILABLE.

We are pursuing improvements to this area. THE OLD RAILROAD GRADE EASTWARD TO COUNTY ROUTE 16/25 IS BEING IMPROVED TO PROVIDED ACCESS TO WV 16 AT HARTLAND. Also, the existing County Route 22, which provides access to this area, will be reviewed for needed maintenance....."

Bob Wise Gave. The residents of Elkhurst have enjoyed a paved road with guard rails along the river for the past 20 years.

On December 21, 2023 I wrote a letter to Governor Jim Justice and Speaker Roger Hanshaw since both were involved in a very public way in establishing the "Rails to Trails Park" along the OLD

RAILROAD GRADE in question. It says in part:

"I want to make you aware of the status of the road leading to Elkhurst in light of a recent incident. (Wherein I discussed an individual who needed to go to the hospital but had to drive himself due to the condition of the road.) The road to Elkhurst from Hartland is over the old C&O rail bed. It has deteriorated badly of late. It was paved by the DOH in 2003 as an alternative to replacing the old Elkhurst Bridge (documentation attached). Guard rails were added and the State continued to maintain this right of way until earlier this year. A dispute arose, I have been told, when the Rails to Trails claimed it had jurisdiction over this section and would not agree to the DOH to continue maintain this road despite it being in continual use for the last 20 years. The residents of Elkhurst and surrounding area are not opposed to the trail, but the trail and the residents could share this section of road for the benefit of all." I went on to ask both of them to look into a compromise which would allow the residents the continued benefit of this their ONLY VIABLE access.

Governor Justice and Speaker Hanshaw's response you ask? SILENCE

Two weeks later I emailed both to follow up. Their response? SILENCE

SILENCE is an infuriating response. SILENCE says I have something to hide. SILENCE says I don't care about this issue. SILENCE says shut up and go away.

A bill is making it's way through the West Virginia legislature making it easier for the State to acquire abandoned railroad beds for hiking and biking trails. I wonder...?

Another thing I wonder about is, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE COMMITMENT

FROM THE DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS TO:

MAINTAIN THE RAILBED AND TO BUILD US A NEW BRIDGE.

In another letter dated June 9, 2003 from the House of Delegates, West Virginia Legislature to The Honorable Bob Wise. It says in part:

"We, the undersigned, respectfully request that funding be made available for the repair and maintenance of the cable suspension bridge at Elkhurst, in Clay County....

During the winter months the road over Beechy Ridge is almost impassable at times. Children cannot get to school and people cannot get to work....

It was signed by: William Stemple, Delegate 33rd District, David Perry, Delegate 29th District

John Pino, Delegate 29th District, Shirley Love, Senator 11th District

Randy White, Senator 11th District

Though their recommendations were not followed, they at least attempted to address their constituent's concerns. This is how government is supposed to work.

Jim Justice took away.

So, Governor Jim Justice through inaction and perhaps directly allowed the only reliable and safe access to Elkhurst to fall into such a dilapidated state as to be almost unusable. Speaker Roger Hanshaw through his inaction shares in this travesty of injustice to his constituents.

This past summer local citizens led by Mike Schoonover filled the many potholes with whatever they could find. Alas, it has all disintegrated. My fear is that the next move will be to completely close this vital link to vehicle traffic, thereby trapping the poor folks in Elkhurst.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Looking for someone to plow snow from the lot and shovel snow from the sidewalk for the Clay County Department of Health and Human Resources office in Clay, WV.

If interested, please contact
Patty Martin at 304-872-0810

LEGAL

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Clay County Clerk's Office at P.O. Box 190, 246 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043-0190. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Clay County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 or 44-3A.

Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.

Publication Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024

Claim Deadline: Monday, April 1, 2024

APPOINTMENT DATE 1/23/2024

ESTATE NAME: **JERREL W ELLIOTT**
EXECUTRIX ENITH G ELLIOTT
PO BOX 191
LIZEMORES WV 25125-0191

APPOINTMENT DATE 12/28/2023

ESTATE NAME: **DALE H GREEN**
EXECUTOR RICK CONRAD
1237 O'BRION RD
DUCK WV 25063-8455

APPOINTMENT DATE 12/19/2023

ESTATE NAME: **DEANNA LYNN HALL**
ADMINISTRATRIX FELICHEA SMITH
29 BASS DR
IVYDALE WV 25113-8253

APPOINTMENT DATE 12/27/2023

ESTATE NAME: **NAOMI J HOLCOMB**
EXECUTRIX NANCY THOMAS
PO BOX 92
DIXIE WV 25059-0092

APPOINTMENT DATE 12/15/2023

ESTATE NAME: **DAVID HAROLD MORTON**
ADMINISTRATOR LUCAS SAMUEL MORTON
405 E 9TH ST
BELLE WV 25015-1710

APPOINTMENT DATE 01/23/2024

ESTATE NAME: **DOUGLAS FERRELL STARCHER**
ADMINISTRATRIX COURTNEY DAWN PROCTOR
4561 OVAPA RD
PROCIOS WV 25164-7036

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 1/25/2024

Sheila Stone
County Clerk
Clay County
P.O. Box 190
246 Main Street
Clay WV 25043-0190

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Country Roads, Take Me Home

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

I turned on my car radio this morning and had to smile. John Denver's song, "Country Roads" was playing, which always makes me happy. I am not an exception in loving this song; and hearing it lifts my spirit, which is true for all West Virginians.

As I listened to the lyrics, my mind drifted to the many who use our highways every day as they travel through our mountains. We are a friendly bunch, not only offering hospitality, but caring about the safety of others. I have often watched a Mountaineer stop to change a flat or check on a stranded motorist. We care about people.

At the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, we also are diligent about safety inspections. Our transportation officers perform inspections routinely on the large trucks and buses that travel our highways to make sure they meet strict safety regulations. They also man the weigh stations throughout the state that help keep commercial motor vehicles in compliance with state and federal regulations.

As Denver traveled through our state, I am sure he found great pleasure. He clearly defined our people and our state's majesty in his lyrics. He portrayed us well.

"Country Roads" is one of West Virginia's four official state songs. It captures the core of our natural wonders and the spirit of our people. Denver's tune is catchy, but his lyrics pay tribute to a remarkable place to raise families.

The well-known chorus, "...take me home, to the place I belong," invigorates me. We are proud of our state



Public Service Commission Chair Charlotte Lane

and truly feel that sense of belonging. Our people make this land unique, but the beauty and our culture add to the magical nature of the state we call home.

When he sings, "Life is old there, older than the trees," I am reminded of the deep-rooted history that breathes life into every corner of our great state. Our heritage and culture are woven into our very fabric through stories of resilience during troubled times, through our hard-working nature, and the strong spirit of our people.

As you journey through our rolling hills to explore our hidden treasures, let John Denver's song guide you along those country roads, reminding you of what makes West Virginia so special. Think about the great people who made the Mountain State what it is today; and whisper a thank you to our great transportation officers. And remember, this is "Almost Heaven."



Jan. 26 in the House of Delegates. WV Legislative Photography, photo by Perry Bennett

House

Continued From Page 1

ing it was "incredibly unfortunate that a bill like this is necessary."

A total of 1,242 bills

have been introduced in the House. The deadline for House bills to be introduced is Feb.

13. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight Saturday, March 9.

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"We Treat Others As We Like To Be Treated Ourselves." – Matthew 7:12

Health Plan Donates \$360,000 to West Virginia Food Banks

The Health Plan (THP) donated a total of \$360,000 to food banks across the state of West Virginia. THP presented \$30,000 checks to 12 different food banks as part of the organization's annual "Spirit of Giving" campaign.

"We are grateful to The Health Plan for their support of our mission, and we share with them a vision of a healthier Ohio Valley," said Mark Phillips, president and CEO of Catholic Charities West Virginia. "Through their generosity, we continue to provide services to those who are most vulnerable in our community."

These donations will help each organization restock their pantries and provide warm meals to West Virginians in need, allowing each organization to continue changing lives and making an impact across the state.

"At The Health Plan, we understand the profound impact proper nutrition has on the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve," said Jeff Knight, president and CEO of The Health Plan. "We're honored to support these outstanding organizations in their mission to provide nutritious, warm meals to those in need. Together, we can create positive change and build a healthier, more resilient West Virginia for all."

The Health Plan donated more than half a million dollars to non-profit organizations in 2023 alone.

Food Banks Include:

Charleston, WV: Parkersburg, WV: Campbell's Creek Old Man River's Mission Church of the Nazarene, Union Mission Ministries Wheeling, WV: Gassaway, WV: House of the Carpenter, Mountaineer Food Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling, St. James' Bank	Huntington, WV: Evangelical Lutheran
Huntington City Mission	Church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Morgantown, WV: Christian Help	

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Panthers get first win of the season



Left, Zach Deyton drives for two in the paint. Above, Noah Collins gets two after a steal. Right, Ayden Brown bowls the middle for two at Richwood.

By Allen Hamrick
The Panther basketball team locked horns this week against both Richwood and Braxton High Schools. The Panthers played a whale of a game against the tough Richwood Lumberjacks on Wednesday night. With the Panthers, it is nonstop action from the opening bell to the final whistle. Looking for their first win of the season, the Panthers came out swinging and were up 32-30 at the half. After the half, the Panthers went on a bombing run and hardly missed a basket. The Panther defense went to work throwing the Lumberjacks completely off their game with high intensity full court action. The Panthers knocked down 20

points in the 3rd period, and the Lumberjacks were pushing a chain trying to keep up. However, the fast paced one shot, one point offense the Panthers were doing kept the defense of the Lumberjacks line dancing to an offbeat. Not saying that the Lumberjacks weren't grabbing some net, also, but they just couldn't go net to net with the Panthers. The final score was Panthers 71, Lumberjacks 61. Zach Deyton gets the hot shot award in the game hitting for a whopping 19 points followed closely by Ayden Brown with 15 and Micah Osborne with 12. Friday was Homecoming night for the Panthers, and the boys were to battle the Eagles

of Braxton on home turf. Coming in off a win, the Panthers had a good amount of steam to lock horns with. The game started off with some head scratching basketball as the Eagles jumped at the chance to capitalize on some Panther turnovers thereby getting a jump on the score and going up 0-12 in the first minutes of the game. Then, it was if the lights came on and Hollywood brought out the cameras. The Panthers went shopping for points and racked up 10 before the Eagles knew what hit them. Bewildered, the Eagles called time out before there wasn't going to be a 2024 Christmas party. After the time, the Eagles got their wits about them again,

and the game went forward with the Eagles keeping the lead out of reach for the Panthers. The Panthers couldn't overcome the open court shooting of the Eagles and lost the game. With the Panthers, every game is all out, fast and furious, and the team hammers the game down their opponent's throat. However, as hard as they play, you have to score. The final score was Panthers 37, Eagles 56. The Panthers hit the road again on Saturday and played the tough Doddridge County. The trip north didn't bode well for the Panthers, and they lost another tough one 36-61. Friday night was also the time to crown the 2024 Basketball

Homecoming Queen of CCHS. The CCHS band and cheerleaders, dressed in their finest, got busy lining up in formation to welcome the new queen to the court and accepted her crown from CCHS principal Allen Tanner. Landon Williams escorted the new queen across the court with all the class of Jimmy Stewart. The queen's crown bearer was Gisale Goldizen and her escort was River Osburn. Congratulations to Queen Goldizen and the rest of her court. Freshman Princess was Lainey Nichols and her escort was Brody Scarbro.

Sophomore Princess was Lakin Winebrenner with escort Wyatt Coleman. Junior Princess was Skylee Marie Rogers with escort Tristan Samples. Senior Princess was Abigail Marie Holley with escort Isaac Brown. Congratulations to the new queen, Lillie Goldizen, and her court. In other basketball news, the Lady Panthers seem to have got into a winning groove taking down the mighty Hoover Lady Huskies in a nail biter 37-36 and also Midland Trail 41-33. Their only loss came against Webster County in a barn burner 39-40. All the teams will be playing this week, so come out and catch a game.



Left, Bret Smith looks for a pin. Center, Caydion Rhodes sets the cowboy. Right, Pierce Adkins works towards the pin at Elkview.

Panthers and Mustangs compete in Huntington

By Allen Hamrick
The Panther wrestling

team and the Mustang wrestling

team were on the road this week for the

WSAZ tournament. First, however, it was the Mustangs in a quad match at Elkview to warm up for the weekend. Westside, Sissonville, Clay and Elkview participated in the event. The Mustangs tore the mat up in their matches against Westside and Sissonville, winning both matchups. Then they went head to head with Elkview and did pretty well but lost some key matches that would have got them over the top. The Mustangs placed second in the tournament, and it was

a good primer for the super tough competition at the WSAZ tournament in Huntington. Both wrestling teams have been in some wars on the mats this season but nothing like that at the WSAZ tournament this past weekend. Over sixty teams from three different states came to compete against each other in what was to be some of the toughest wrestling the boys have encountered this year. It was going to be a tough road to haul on, for sure, and keeping your back from getting glued to a mat is a win

in and of itself. Zane Minger and James Sears both placed 7th in the tournament for the Panthers, and Pierce Adkins placed 7th for the Mustangs. The Panthers also placed 10th overall as a team. It was a good tournament to work out some bugs before the end of the season. The Mustangs CWVAC championship will be on Saturday, February 3rd at Ravenswood, and the Panthers will be on the mats at Calhoun County. Come out and support the teams.

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